

A Strange and Wonderful

DISCOVERY

Newly made of

Houses Under Ground,

At Colton's-Field in Gloucester-Shire.

THat there is yet a great part of the Earth undiscovered, is both the Opinion of the most famous Geographers (as appears by their vacancies in the Globe) and the Belief of the Learned of this and former Ages; And as *New Islands* have been found which were never known to our Ancestors, so several parts of the Earth which were known, have been Lost, as that Island near *Ireland*, which is described in the Maps, but cannot now be found by all the industrious Search made after it, which no doubt hath been swallowed up, as some Parts of *Zealand* are, by the Sea, the tops of whose Steeples are yet seen by Mariners as they Sail by 'em. These Considerations will, I hope, render the following Account more Credible in it self, and give it a better appearance of Truth, and Acceptance in the World, than probable the Strangeness and Novelty of it would admit of amongst the ignorant and unlearned part of Mankind. The Relation is thus:

In a piece of Ground within two Miles of *Cirencester*, (in the County of *Gloucester*) commonly known by the Name of *Colton's Field*, as two Labourers were digging a Gravel-Pit at the foot of a Hill (which they had now sunk four yards deep) they observed the Ground on that side next the Hill to be loose, and presently discovered an Entrance into the Belly of the Hill, which appearing very strange to them, and rather the Work of Art than Nature, one of them ventur'd a little way in, and by the Light from the hole, discovered a large Cavity; whereupon they got a Lanthorn and Candle to make a further Search into it. By the Advantage of this Light the first place they entred appeared to have been a Hall, which was large, and in it two long Tables with Benches on each side, which they no sooner touch'd to feel their substance, but they crumbled into Dust; from thence they saw a Passage into another Room, which by the Furniture had been a Kitchen, several Utensils proper to it, as Pots, Kettles, &c. being of Brass or Iron, continued firm, but eaten through with Rust and Canker. Beyond the Hall they went into a Parlour, furnish'd according to the fashion of those Times, with Carpets richly wrought, and other Furniture agreeable; these also fell to pieces upon their touching 'em. At one Corner of this Room there appeared to have been a pair of Stairs, but the Earth had fallen in, and stopt the Ascent. Going back, in the Hall, they observ'd another



another passage, which led them into a square Room, curiously beautified with Carved Work, in several parts, supposed to have been some place of Worship and Devotion, by the *Images* in the Wall; and at the upper end of it, they found several Urns, some of which had only Ashes in them, others were filled with Coyns and Medals of Gold, Silver and Brass, with *Latin* Inscriptions, and the Heads of several of the *Roman* Emperours. As they went searching about this Room they spied a Door which had been strongly patched with Iron, but the wood being rotten, with a little force it fell a peeces, and looking in, to their great Astonishment they saw the Image of a Man in full proportion with a Truncheon in his hand, and a light in a glass like a Lamp burning before him; this very much Affrighted them at first, imagining it to be the Devil in that shape, or a Guardian Spirit set there to defend some hidden Treasure, the hopes whereof so far encouraged them at last, that one of them ventured a step in, but upon his first descent, the Image seem'd to strike at him, at which they were both so petrify'd that they durst proceed no further, but went back and taking many of the Medalls and Coyns with them, out of the Urns, at night acquainted a Gentleman who is a famous Antiquary, with the discovery they had made, what they had seen, and the mony they had found, shewing him several Pictures, upon which he ordered them to keep the matter private, promising to go with em the next morning, which he accordingly did. After he had with wonder and delight viewed the other Rooms, they conducted him to the place where the Image was, which he supposed might, by some great Artist, be made to strike at certain times, therefore without any Apprehension of Danger went in, and as before, upon his first step the Image made an offer to strike, so at the second step but with a greater force, at the third step it struck a violent blow on the Glass where the Light was, which broke it in peeces and quite extinguish'd it, that had they not been furnish'd with a Lanthorn and Candle, their Condition would have been desperate.

The Image appeared to have been the Effigies of some *Roman* General, by those Ensigns of Martial Honour which lay at his Feet. On the Left Hand lay two Heads embalm'd, the Flesh was shrivel'd up and looked like Parchment scorched, of a dark Complexion, they had long hair on the Chin, one seem'd to be Red, the other Black. Upon further Search, was found several other Passages, leading to other Houses, or different Rooms of the same House; but a hollow Noise like a deep Sigh or Groan prevented any further Discovery, our Adventurers hastily quitting those dark Apartments, which they had no sooner done, than the Hill sunk down and buried all the Rarities, except those Medals and Coyns, taken out the Night before; which are now shewn for the Satisfaction of Curious and Ingenious Persons, who in great numbers flock to see them, and purchase them at great Rates, as the most valuable Relicks of Antiquity.